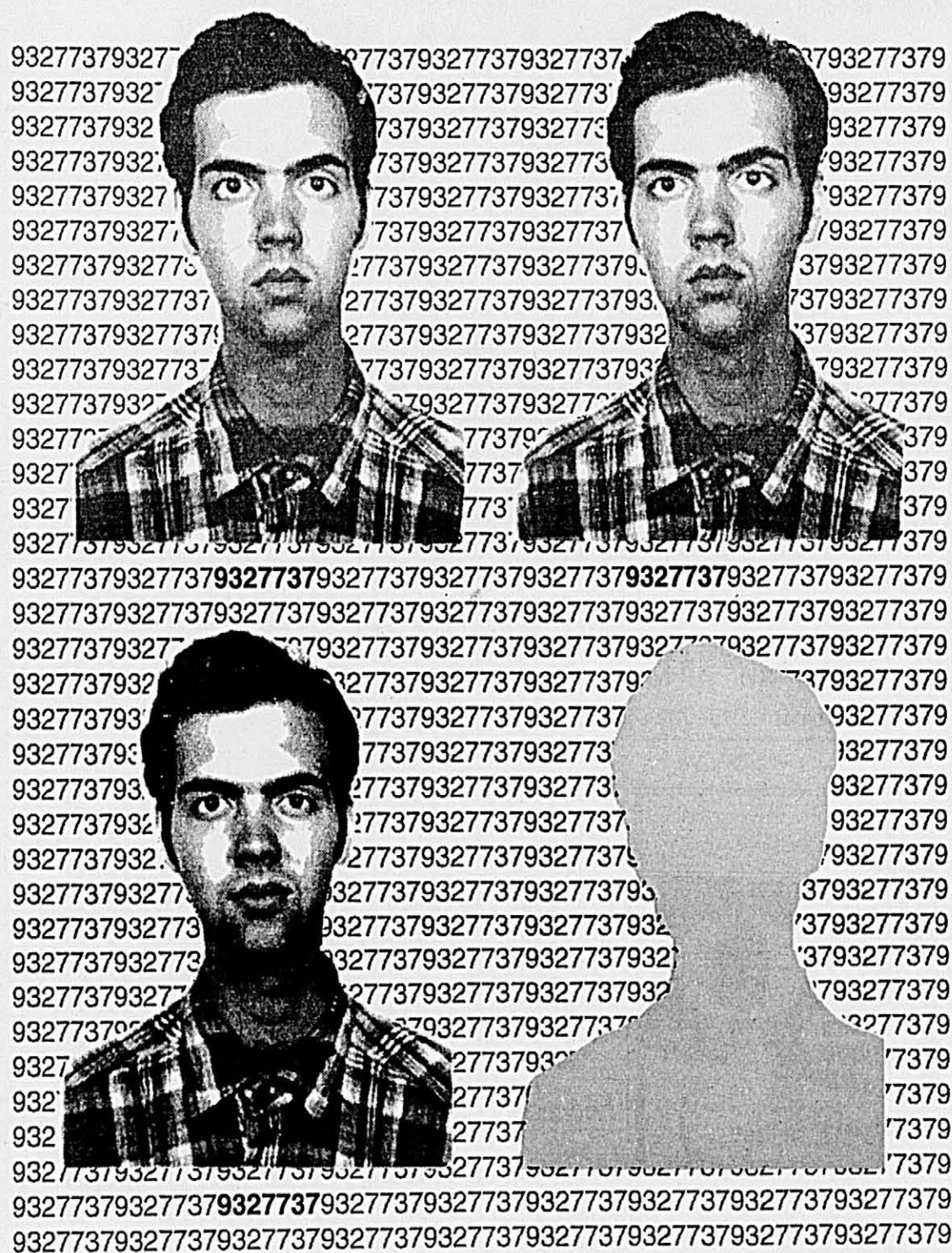


CULTURE



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The McGill Daily
volume 86 • number 10

September 26 — October 2, 1996

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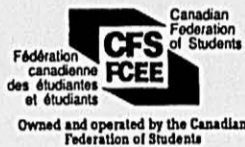
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BANQUE LAURENTIENNE

An open letter to Pauline Marois from the McGill community

As you join us for the celebrations of McGill's fine tradition of accessible high quality education, we would like to present you with a record of the message students, faculty, and staff want you to hear amidst all the self-congratulations.

We feel we must rise up and make our voices heard, because we are being ignored on our campus.

Our administration has ignored our demand for continued commitment to accessible education by cutting programs and services (see the current negotiations with TA and staff unions whose salaries have been frozen since 1992 and proposed cuts to programs like African or Religious Studies), services that allow students to receive well-tutored, well rounded education. Further, our administration has ignored our plea for consultation by refusing to hold an

Etats Généraux on the direction of McGill.

For these reasons, we feel it necessary to speak out, to ensure that accessible high quality education is not jeopardised at McGill.

We want you to know that when the administration meets with you, they do so without consensus, and without our interests at heart.

We do not speak in ignorance of the current political climate. We know that the Bouchard government wishes to eliminate the deficit within two years. We know that social programs bear the brunt of deficit reduction strategies, and that deficit reduction has already put social programs under great duress with the Federal Liberals' implementation of Bill C76, the Canada Health and Social Transfer, resulting in astronomical cuts for social programs.

We know that \$700 million cuts are being threatened next year for Québec education, in addition to this year's \$400 million cuts. We know that these cuts mean that at both federal and provincial levels the foundations for a just and equitable society are being eroded.

We, the members of the McGill community, do not want this community to be a corrosive agent in this process of erosion. We believe that accessible education is fundamental for a society that believes in the principal of equality. We are therefore presenting a list of our suggestions for your ministry to adopt:

1. Reaffirm traditional PQ commitment to high quality accessible education:

(a) Initiate an immediate study (involving educational partners, such as student or staff unions) on the impact of tuition

and other administrative fees on accessibility.

(b) Until such a study is completed, continue the current tuition freeze and maintain current funding levels for Québec education.

(c) Table a bill in the National Assembly to implement legislation maintaining current tuition-fee levels.

2. Insist that the PQ seek ways to increase revenues, rather than cut social programs:

(a) Lobby the federal government to repeal Bill C76.

(b) Ensure that Québec's tax system is progressive, collecting more from upper income brackets and profitable corporations.

(c) End Québec government grants and subsidies to profitable corporations.

(d) Lobby the federal government to follow a moderate inflation, low interest policy through the Bank of Canada.

Hyde Park submitted by:
Sara Mayo (Co-ordinator, QPIRG)
Michael Temelini and Regina Harrison (Co-ordinators, Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill)
Chantal Da Silva (VP-External Affairs, SSMU)
Chris Carter (President, SSMU)
Alain Roy (President, MacDonald Campus Graduate Students' Society)
Caroline Bonan (MacDonald Campus Students' Society, VP-External Affairs)
Mike Yakobina (President, Service Employees' Union of McGill)
Alan Youster (President, McGill University Non-Academic Certified Association)
Lauren Small (Chairperson, Canadian Federation of Students-Québec)
The members of McGill Black Students' Network

The McGill Daily

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Letters

Ignorance or Idiocy?

To the Daily,

Your World Watch on Sep-
tember 18 contained historical
inaccuracies regarding student
riots in South Korea. Firstly, the
1980 protest in Kwangju re-
sulted in the deaths of 200 pro-
testers, not 2,000.

Secondly, your article
claimed that "Korea" was occu-
pied by the U.S. after World War
Two. But only South Korea was
"occupied" by the Allies, as
were the other former posses-
sions of Nazi Germany and the
Japanese Empire, to allow the
political situation to calm down.
American troops were attacked
by North Korea when it invaded
the south in 1950. Then, as a re-
sult of a UN resolution, troops
from 50 nations (including
Canada) were sent to defeat the
North Koreans. The war was
fought between North Koreans
and the UN, not the "U.S. Pen-
tagon" as was stated in your ar-
ticle.

Millions of families were
separated because of Soviet de-
mands for control of the north
half of the peninsula; the pres-
ence of U.S. soldiers is due to
South Korean requests for secu-
rity against another invasion.
Contrary to your article, no sig-
nificant attempt has been made
by North Korea to initiate
reunification. The South can't be
blamed for not wanting
reunification with a country that
has been the subject of countless
UN condemnations for their at-
tempts at developing nuclear
weapons.

Your article doesn't say that
despite their cold relations, the
U.S. and South Korea have sent
food aid to help North Korea,

and have recently given funding
for the dismantling of their nu-
clear reactors. When one con-
trasts this humanitarianism with
the North, whose leader, Kim
Jong Il, still proudly states that
his country is the only Stalinist
regime left, you must wonder
what sort of political agenda is
served by distorting the facts so
badly. I think it's toss between
ignorance and idiocy.

James Downar
U2 Biology

Tobacco and Tigers

To the Daily,

Concerning the Sept. 19 ar-
ticle about Montreal's non-en-
forcement of its non-smoking
laws, it bears saying that there
is a definite smoking problem in
the Shatner building. Once the
cafeteria closes, there are no
public smoking places. At night
and on the weekend, only the
upstairs offices are off limits to
tobacco. Must this situation pre-
vail?

Regarding the Sept. 12 article
about the play The Night a Ti-
ger was Captured, it is impor-
tant to note that tigers are highly
endangered, with only about
5,000 remaining world-wide.
They are killed for traditional
Asian medicine. Anyone inter-
ested in the struggle to save the
tigers can write PETA (People
for the Traditional Treatment of
Animals), 501 Front. St., Nor-
folk, Virginia, 23510 U.S.A.

There is a point at which the
tobacco industry and the killing
of non-human animals inter-
sects — and that is at the pro-
duction of death.

Shloime Perel

McGill Alumnus

Comment dit-on 'SSMU'?

To the Daily,

An open letter to Chris
Carter,

I'm disappointed to learn
that the bilingual policy
proudly touted by the Student's
Society of McGill University is
not being upheld in your meet-
ings.

As you well know, all policy,
by-laws and constitutional
amendments passed by the
SSMU are to be written in both
official languages. It also re-
quires that all SSMU Council
members, especially the execu-
tive, function in both French
and English, or at least take the
necessary steps to do so. There-
fore, it is with regret that I

learned that the by-laws passed
at the Sept. 12, 1996 council
meeting were passed only in
English because it was "trouble-
some" and that it would have
taken too much time to conform
to your own policy.

Without discussing such hy-
pocrisy, I would suggest that
you take the necessary steps to
ensure that a similar situation
does not re-occur. I would also
suggest that bilingualism is not
an inconvenience, and that
properly serving the
francophone population of
McGill through SSMU policy,
does not take too much time,
ever.

Thank you for your consid-
eration.

Elisabeth Gomery
Francophone Commis-
sioner

Notes From Below

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Queer Cinema

L'Escorte Comes to a theatre near you

by Mariko Tamaki

This past Monday, the Imperial Cinema, Image et Nation, which organises Montréal's annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, held a benefit screening of *L'Escorte*, a French film (with English subtitles) directed by former Concordia film student, and native Montréaler, Denis Langlois. Despite some brief difficulties getting in the door, (my French is pretty rough), I am pleased to report that I actually LIKED this movie!

Set in present day Montréal, *L'Escorte* is a comedy of errors and false assumptions. The movie centres its focus around Phillipe and Jean-Marc, a gay couple living in Montréal who end up with an unexpected guest at the end of a party. Both Phillipe and Jean-Marc mistakenly assume the guest, Steve, has been sent by the escort agency, Escort 2000. When Steve has an accident while trying to change a light-bulb, which is falsely taken to be a suicide attempt, Phillipe and Jean-Marc allow Steve to stay with them while he convalesces.

Eager to learn the secret of Jean-Marc and Phillipe's relationship, Steve plays along with his hosts' false assumptions, hoping to pick up some hints on how to make a long-term relationship work.

It gets more complicated. As the plot unravels, in addition to learning the true identity of Steve, Phillipe also learns a hidden secret about his childhood friend Christian, who has recently discovered he is infected with the HIV virus. *L'Escorte* then, in addition to being a movie about friends, lovers, and the difference between love and sex, is also a movie about AIDS, and how this disease affects not only those who are HIV+, but their friends, parents, and loved

ones.

Depicting the struggle between death and life, the film explores the inevitability, which sometimes is all too present, of our demise contrasted with the knowledge that life "goes on." This struggle runs parallel to the mood of *L'Escorte* which struggles between the earnest emotions involved in discussing a topic like AIDS and the comedy of everyday life.

I hope my somewhat conventional appraisal of this movie does not lead any viewer to believe that they are about to step into a utopian movie about a gay "fall from innocence to experience." The characters of *L'Escorte* are not easily summed up into quick definitions. No one, in this movie, is perfect and that, I suppose, is its charm. The characters in this movie make all the unpredictable mistakes of everyday life, they sleep with the wrong people, fall in love with the wrong people, and, on a more practical level, they aren't the greatest of businessmen (Phillipe and Jean-Marc are on the verge of going bankrupt). At least though, writers Bertrand Lachance and Denis Langlois, can find humour and meaning in the mistakes the characters make.

the characters. *L'Escorte* feels like a sitcom at points, with its witty exchanges between characters and almost slapstick sense of humor. Though at times the dialogue stumbles (why, for instance, would it seem logical to let Steve stay in the house?), the big picture of the movie makes the inconsistencies worth overlooking.

With the shocking scarcity of films available that depict queer lives, it is sometimes difficult to neutrally evaluate the quality of the films that do. Sometimes I feel, as a member of the Queer community, so happy to see Gay or Lesbian life depicted on screen I don't really CARE how good the movie is, I'm just happy to see that it exists in this medium. This is not to say that *L'Escorte* is only a good movie because it's a "GAY" movie. Not only is *L'Escorte* a good movie in its own right, it is also more than a "Gay" movie. *L'Escorte*, above all, is a well-written movie about modern life. Perhaps, in the future, when movies like *L'Escorte* have increased in popularity and number, there will no longer need to be the distinction between Queer and Straight movies, simply a distinction between good and bad movies (which is

really all that matters). But I'm getting ahead of myself.

With a commendable performance by Paul-Antoine Taillefer as Phillipe, *L'Escorte* is a funny and compelling drama/comedy that is worth seeing.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CINÉMA LIBRE

Visually, *L'Escorte* is not a fancy Hollywood production. The film is shot in what feels like soap opera frames, which zero in closely on the faces of

L'Escou begins playing this Friday, September, 27, at 2001 McGill with English subtitles and *Dejardin Cuatre* in French only.

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A different side of Indian culture

Bhangra Extravaganza '96 aims high



by Shawn Berry

One the greatest hardships of a musician is to get his/her work recognised. It's more easily done if your brand of music is familiar to the masses. It's even easier if you're part of a well-established genre.

Unfortunately, when many people think of music from India, the images and sounds conjured in their mind are the mystical ones from Sunday morning movies on the CBC. This is the kind of stereotype that organisers of Bhangra Extravaganza '96 are endeavouring to dismiss.

"Indian culture has never had that high a profile in these parts," says festival promoter Richard Lafrance.

This lack of exposure makes it all the harder to get recognised — most people have no idea what bhangra music is.

"It's aggressive dance music," explains Tony Singh, singer for Punjabi by Nature headliners of the September 28th show, along with Simply Bhangra, Josh and Dal-Dil-Vog. Singh goes on to explain that bhangra's appeal stems from the fact that the music is both unique and familiar, incorporating traditional Indian music, funk, reggae, rock, disco and lyrics sung in Punjabi. Singh even admits that Punjabi by Nature's band members said, "that's weird" the first time they heard the music.

Punjabi by Nature have been performing together for nearly three years. "The first cassette was done on my own as a kind of personal experiment," explains Singh, a resident of Toronto. Having initially printed only 60 copies of the tape, Singh was surprised when the demand reached past 4 000 copies. That is when he began to feel the pressure to have a performing band.

Success followed when in March of this year they were nominated for a JUNO award. They found themselves nominated in the Best Global Recording category, which is kind of strange because Singh concedes that bhangra is more a fusion of different types of popular Western music and traditional Indian music. With members coming from a variety of differ-

ent backgrounds and musical influences, Singh likens Punjabi by Nature's sound to placing all those varying influences in "a big blender, and pressing high speed."

For Bhangra Extravaganza '96, Lafrance explains that his strategy is to attract 1 000 members from the Indian community and between 300 and 500 people who do not constitute part of the Indian commu-

nity. The aim is to "test the market for curious, open-minded people," and to verify the demand for a three day Indian culture festival planned for next summer.

The popularity of bhangra seems to be taking off, however. Bhangra bands based in London have been attracting a lot of attention and hints have even been dropped that some Canadian bands may get scooped up by British music labels who feel they've caught on to something that will soon gain a larger au-

dience. A recent show in Red Deer, Alberta wasn't expected to be very popular, but over 9 000 people showed up for it. The show's organisers had expected so few people that security wasn't adequate to stop over 60 concert-goers who decided they wanted to mosh on the stage. The lack of control over the crowd nearly forced the cancellation of the concert.

Saturday night's show won't just be about music either. One of the festival's aims is to throw in a little culture as well, mak-

ing it an interesting and potentially educational event. Dance troupes, a fashion show featuring Indian clothing, Indian films and other events will attempt to make up for this lack of Indian culture within the media.

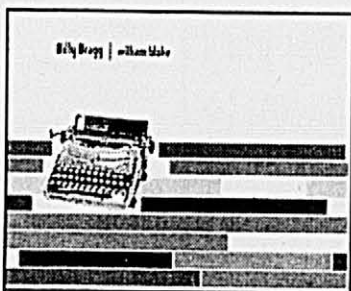
Singh explains that most Canadians aren't well-versed in the realities of India and know only the negative side of a diverse culture. "[The media] haven't caught on to it... You never see the good side of India. The show on the 28th shows the positive side."

cd reviews

Billy Bragg -
William Bloke

(Polydor/Polygram/Burning Vinyl)

In 1982, Pink Floyd released their final album (as a complete band), *The Final Cut*. One of the great Floyd concept albums, the record centered around the fate



of the "postwar dream" — you know, that silly notion that held at its core the idea that you could one day find a decent job and have a social safety net to protect you. Well, back in '82, Pink Floyd came to the conclusion that Reagan and Thatcher were responsible for its undoing.

Billy Bragg, the socialist working class British folkie, sees much the same villains in Newt's '90s. The question is, however, can an artist who blatantly espouses socialism in his lyrics and whose words seem closer to Dylan's "Blowin' In The Wind" than Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit" still be relevant in a time when anger, cynicism and contempt rule the airwaves? For Bragg, the answer is — surprisingly — still yes.

With his thick Northern English working class accent (slightly reminiscent of the Fab Four), when Bragg sings about the "Northern Industrial Town" and the virtues of its working class people there is a certain authenticity and street credibility that rings through. Although Bragg's hard-core socialism

smacks of 1960's idealism and baby boomer dreck, there is a certain appeal to his description of a "kinder, gentler" society (warning: George Bush's catch phrase has just been taken completely out of context).

On the down side, Bragg's forays into the brass big-band sound on cuts like "Upfield" fail miserably because of poor arrangement and awkward melodies. Let's face it: folk music and the big-band sound do not mix and Bragg's attempt to amalgamate the two sounds much like early '80s synthesised pop kitsch. However, in spite of its shortcomings, *William Bloke* works — especially on songs where Bragg is alone with the guitar and words, and even a cynic like me can respect his left-leaning lyrics. Viva la Revolution!!!!

— Gil Shochat

Dream Warriors -
The Master Plan

(Beat Factory/EMI)

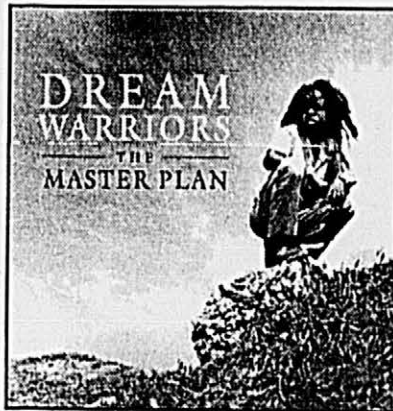
From their inception and debut album, the Dream Warriors helped to create the idea that quality hip hop/rap can certainly be produced in Canada. Their original style helped to make them a pioneer in the Canadian rap scene. However, this once unique style has now faded into the ever-growing American hip hop scene.

South of the border, this particular genre of rap — of rambling, over-primitive, ever-continuing, monotonous beats — has taken on a generic sound, whereby many of the artists are putting out albums that are interchangeable with each other, differing only in lyrics and the minds of the artists. Artists like

Funkdobiest, the Wu-Tang Clan and perhaps even the Dogg Pound have perpetuated this lack of originality and, unfortunately for the Dream Warriors, their newest creation is an average representation of this generic form of American rap. *The Master Plan* is neither the worst depiction of 1990's rap, nor is it a musical creation that young artists should aspire to mimic. They do incorporate some R&B and a little reggae but this seems to be a normal concession for modern hip hop groups looking to broaden their listening base.

As an aside to the musical quality of this album, there does exist a positive note. If *The Master Plan* is played on a CD ROM drive, the magic of multimedia comes to life, with animated movies, videos and extra information about the band and

the album. Furthermore, a little adventure has been assembled to keep your interest in *The Dream Simulator*. Thus, while the music is mediocre at best, the



visual presentation is well put together and certainly fun to play with.

— Dave Dixter

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Delivering pressure

An interview

by Christopher Watson and Anup Grewal

Ever since he walked out of the Chinese gulag, Hongda Harry Wu has been trying to make others see in.

In the process, though, he has made some strange political bedfellows, and alienated many mainland and overseas Chinese.

But Wu maintains that all he has been trying to do during his last 11 years of freedom is to remove the bricks from the walls around the Chinese prison system — the Laogai — to expose it to external criticism.

In 1985, Wu emigrated to the United States after 19 years in Chinese prisons, and shortly thereafter began his harsh indictment of the Laogai — and of Chinese Communism.

In 1991 and 1994 he returned three times to China, in various disguises, to document prison camp life as well as the trade in organs of executed Chinese prisoners. He has appeared on *60 Minutes*, *The Fifth Estate*, and on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Last year, on June 19, Wu was arrested by Chinese police at the Khazhakstan-China border. He was charged and sentenced to 15 years in prison for selling state secrets. He was saved, however, due to his status as a naturalised U.S. citizen and an appeal made by Hillary Clinton on her way to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. Wu was freed with the warning that if he ever returned to China, he would have to serve his sentence.

Aside from his documentaries, Wu has written two books: *Laogai: the Chinese Gulag*, which analyses China's prisons as synonymous with the now notorious Soviet Gulag, and *Bitter Winds*, an autobiography of his own experience as a prisoner in China.

Wu has also established the Laogai Research Foundation and is currently working with Amnesty International on their 'China Focus'.

Since 1985, Wu has been hailed as a hero by many in his Western audience. Yet his aggressive views against People's Republic of China remain contentious.

His words and his work have seemingly put him in a loose alliance with such right wing anti-communists as American Senator Jesse Helms. Wu's critics accuse him of playing into the hands of those who demonise China as a communist country and purport a cold war, West-is-best ideology.

But strangely, despite his clearly anti-communist stand, Wu's relationship to his controversial 'allies' remains ambivalent. He says he is committed to exposing the Laogai and condemn the Chinese government for its continued repression of any voice which contests its own.

His is a slippery and difficult stance to grasp.

On his trip to Montréal on Tuesday, the *Daily* had the opportunity to speak briefly with Hongda Harry Wu.

Daily: The way in which the work you've done seems to have resulted in a lot of criticism from intellectual circles in both the overseas and mainland Chinese communities. One of the chief critiques is that regardless of the truth of your work, it plays directly into the demonisation of China that more conservative elements of the American congress, like Jesse Helms, are always seeking. Are you looking for the isolation of China in the world community?

Harry Wu: Here you involve a very typical issue: so-called nationalism, patriotism. It is true most of these Chinese, even overseas, don't want to see that kind of boycott, and they look at me like I am supported by an anti-communism force. It is true I have a good friend in American congress named Jesse Helms on the right wing, but also I have a very good friend from the union, from the left.



DAILY PHOTO BY SARAH JOHNSON

The Laogai issue — you cannot, distinguish or name it or define it by supporters right or left. In the beginning I told the people I want anyone to come to listen to the issue — it is a human being issue — I didn't care if they are from the right or the left. The union fully supports me and yes I have anti-communism supporters, and the Catholics supporting me. I think all the people, if they really have the consciousness are aware that the Chinese are also human beings — they have to support it.

The second thing is that people try to tell you today there is a lot of improvement today in China. If you're going to do boycotts, if you're going to stop the MFN [Most Favoured Nation of the United States] trading status, you will hurt the common Chinese, that's why we will not support you.

Let me go on to a different angle to discuss this issue. Let me go first to South Africa. I remember Bishop Tutu saying "I know that the western countries boycott, sanctions — economic sanctions — applied to South Africa the first group of people who will be hurt are our blacks. The next morning I will lose my job, next morning I don't have any milk or bread for my children."

So it is true we will be hurt, but we are looking for the long term, we have to sacrifice to accept it.

We have to know what is the major problem today in China. Is it rich or poor or democracy or dictatorship? It's a major problem — the people say "well,

we are poor, that's why we have to become rich first. How, why, did we become poor?" Because the political system, the social system, doesn't work.

Becoming rich doesn't mean the political system has changed. We still haven't removed the totalitarian system so we can never become a wealthy society. If the boycott is applied to China it is possible feed the common Chinese, but we have to recognise today that socialist production in China, the so-called state run ownership enterprises, owned by the government, doesn't make money, doesn't make profit, does not offer a better alternative to the common Chinese.

Today most of the profit from the trade goes into the Chinese government, a small part benefits the common people. It is true that if there is a joint venture in Canton many people come from the country side...

If you talk to the young girls [working in these joint ventures] they are very happy, because if they live in the countryside in Sichuan Province they work

very hard, the whole year with no money at all! Now they can earn 300 yuan monthly. They are very happy. This is reality. But most of the profits from the trade are going to the Chinese government. That is why the Chinese government today has the

ability to upgrade the military, has the capacity to put a lot of money in their political activities.

In 1991 when I went back to China most of the border [police] didn't have a computer, today they have computers. Last year when they caught me, all the security police that took care of me had cellular phones, made by Motorola. See this is improvement coming through, right? They can improve their reaction, they can catch you right away... they can drive the four-wheel Jeep made by Cherokee.

If you cut off the MFN, if you start the sanctions, it is true [the sanctions] will hurt the common people. But, the first group to be hurt will be the government. Today you see the communist party is stable because they have

financial support. Let me conclude western cash is the fuel in the tank of the communist vehicle.

D: Do you think that the situation requires an isolation, like that of South Africa?

HW: Today, in reality, boycotts and sanctions against China are impossible. But if different groups, different individuals from different countries force them it would be a very



Harry Wu, upon his release from labour camp in 1971

strong message. Regular Chinese and Chinese communists would say, 'what happened?' This is a very good kind of pressure. We need it. But in reality today there is no way. Business people do not care. There are already billions of dollars in China. Nothing can happen to change it right away.

But there is pressure and message. We must deliver it.

People may argue that China is a very large country, and if you put China back into isolation, it is not good. This is very bad argument. Chinese today come to the world, open to the world. This is from the common people. But today there is no

ure and message

with **Harry Wu**

way that an American leader or a Chinese leader are going to isolate China. There is no way that they can do it.

Deng Xiaoping made an important comment. He said if we did not have economic development if we didn't have an open door policy, we could not have passed over the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

D: Your work of the last couple of years, particularly your collaboration with both CBS's 60 Minutes,



se from Wang Zhuang
— after 19 years.

should we do? This is a huge denying that China has seen the population country. Sanctions? Military involvement? No way."

So, they say the best way is to do business with China, to help the people raise their living conditions so then they will be aware of their rights for living much better and then the whole society will work to upgrade and move into a more democratic society and capitalism will sooner or later defeat socialism. This is a very noble wish, I think. It's a good imagination, I want to say.

First of all, what kind of capitalist system is surviving today in China? It's not the kind of capitalism that you imagine in the West — it is not a free capitalism. Today capitalism in China is a state controlled bureaucratic capitalism with the sons and daughters of party cadres as business people. Can you imagine that those people are interested in human rights?

You think that those people are interested in democracy? ... Capitalism as you know, has no meaning of this issue of democracy.

I want to appeal to people to be careful. When the people mention to you that this [China] is a potential market, that we must go — when they mention that China will sooner or later become an economic giant, then you should also know that being an economic giant also means a political giant, a military giant.

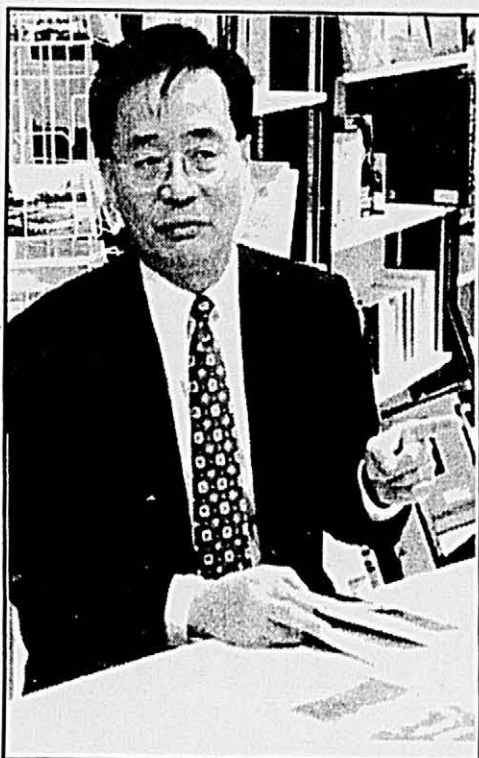
Last March the military maneuver in the Taiwan Straits was a very good signal, a very good message to the West. The Chinese want to tell you: We can

presence of a growing reform movement inside the country itself. People like Wei Jingsheng have continuously raised their voices and have been jailed for it. Where do you position yourself within this Chinese reform movement?

HW: The difference is that some people say the construction, the building is okay but it needs some repair and some replacement. This is so called in-system reform. My view is that the whole construction has to be torn down. This is the difference in our opinions.

Some people today are also talking about constitutional reform. They say the Communist constitution is good and only some of the articles they don't like, so just ask the government to reform. But I say the constitution has to be rewritten.

For example, the students from the Tiananmen Square



DAILY PHOTO BY SARAH JOHNSON

D: How much of what you're doing is promoting or obstructing reform that can happen within China? Is your idea of reform in China based more on what the international community can do? In your view is there hope of reform in China from within China?

HW: Maybe we can say that maybe my obligation, my dedication is a little bit different and away from reality. And some other people are closer to reality. For example after the Tiananmen Square massacre, the people say that there is no way to ask Li Peng to go to the court on trial.

But If we can make the Chinese government admit that this was wrong, this was a mistake, if they are willing to apologise, I think this is a very big political achievement. [Those inside China] are close to reality but I think that I am closer to the truth.

D: Are you content with your achievements so far?

HW : [Nods] Very soon I can set up Laogai memorial museum. I want to set up a memorial museum as a kind of recognition.

Once, I was talking to the Chinese dissidents. I said I don't know about political science, I don't know about these ideologies of democracy or liberty or, I don't know, but I want to mention you that If one day in China there is a

Laogai memorial established somewhere maybe this is the time that we can say China is truly democratic society.

Laogai means what? Laogai means according to one political idea or ideology, according to one party's political lines. According to one leaders' idea and using the government as an organisational machine to destroy the people.

And I said to them, one of you in the future will become the leader and according to the system now, you too can use concentration camps.

I said democracy in China only has one meaning. They're always talking about majority. But I say that this is not democracy. The more important principle of democracy is to protect the minority, to allow the minority to exist all the time. This is the principle of democracy.

And I said I don't think that all of you in China have this idea and the Laogai is the machine to destroy the people who disagree with the system.

If we can make the Chinese government admit that this was wrong, this was a mistake, if they are willing to apologise, I think this is a very big political achievement.

Today capitalism in China is a state controlled bureaucratic capitalism with the sons and daughters of party cadres as business people. Can you imagine that those people are interested in human rights?

do anything we want to do. This is my word to let you know about it.

D: Since the 1970's, there is no

massacre [in 1989] are asking for rehabilitation, but I say that is not acceptable. You are asking the butcher for rehabilitation.

The Chinese Gulag

Hongda Harry Wu

Foreword by Fang Lizhi

Words, words, words...

Flux and Twitch get busy

by Jessica Lim

Wandering through Activities Night in the Shatner building earlier this month, you may have noticed several newly formed clubs competing for attention amidst the established veterans. Amongst the debutantes are two literary papers, *Flux* and *Twitch*, aiming to provide an opportunity for free expression in a variety of styles, and to encourage students to get involved with the creative process.

As the name suggests, *Flux* is an innovative magazine — especially for McGill — in that it will be comprised exclusively of queer literary and artistic works.

"Flux" means to be in a state of change," says editor in chief Rob Sheldon. "It's a socially progressive idea to be queer."

Although being queer is becoming more socially accepted, there is still a lack of resources, and outlets for free queer expression.

"There is a definite need for this magazine. In a university as big as McGill, there is a large queer population. A magazine like *Flux* is long overdue. It will provide a forum for English and French speaking queer artists to see their work displayed and recognised. [Moreover], it will serve as a source for academic queer studies."

The annual magazine will be released in early March and will include fiction, non-fiction, photography, artwork, and interviews. Although it may publish socio-political articles, Sheldon stresses that "it is a magazine, not a journal. It will mostly contain literary works [with] homocentric themes, [but] it is open to everyone for submissions."

Unlike LBGTM, which is a service, *Flux* is a SSMU club. Although the magazine will concentrate on the works by McGill students, "it is also affiliated with University of Montréal where the bulk of the French works will come from. [In addition], submissions will be accepted from around Canada, and from 40 to 50 universities in the United States." Because of its diversity, the magazine will aid as a "resource for gays inside and out of Montréal."

Also working with Sheldon are Korina Zeidler (advertising co-ordinator and photo and art editor), Meredith Cohen (fiction editor), Karen Tamaki (public-relations co-ordinator), and Derek Fung (layout and graphics co-ordinator).

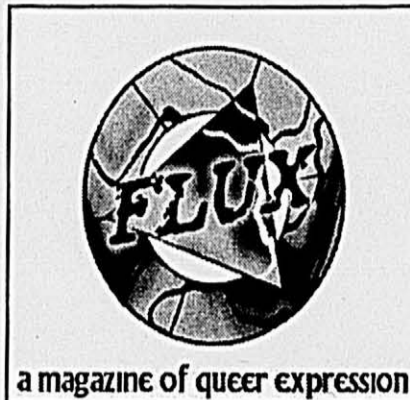
Flux is a magazine in the true sense — it will contain approximately 80 to 100 black and white 8.5" by 11" glossy pages. "The magazine will appear more accessible that way," explains

Fung. However, like its contents, *Flux*'s image will be "very cutting edge... not necessarily [appearing] academic, but more artistic. We're trying to define the next new look," proclaims Fung.

Extending the 'new look' to cyberspace, *Flux* has developed a web site which has already received submissions from around the world. In response to the numerous requests for subscriptions through the 'Net', Fung explains, "there will be a smaller version of the magazine online."

Like *Flux*, *Twitch* is a literary magazine aiming to motivate students to express themselves through writing. "You see lots of interesting people walking around campus, but you never

know what they are thinking," says co-editor Greg Michner.



"*Twitch* is an opportunity for them to express [their thoughts] freely, and to create debate. It is an open forum for anyone to discuss."

Replacing *The Pillar*, which

was published annually, *Twitch* will be published bi-weekly, encouraging students to write, and express themselves more frequently. "It is two double sided pages stapled together, [composed of] short stories, poetry, and opinions."

Like *The Pillar*, *Twitch* is published by the Department of English Students' Association (DESA). Although editors Michner, Rebecca McKechnie, John Durbin, and Lee Oberlander are members of DESA, the magazine is not exclusive to English students.

"*Twitch* doesn't have a bias," Michner asserts. "It is open to anyone." While hoping for quality, they "will accept anything." With an increase in popularity,

Michner is confident that *Twitch* will be able to maintain a standard tantamount to *The Pillar*'s.

Although it will be a lighter read than *The Scrivener*, Michner stresses that "it is not intended to be an alternative magazine. You may find the odd profanity in it, but *Twitch* is something you can pick up and read before class then pass on to a friend."

Flux: Hand submissions into the Flux mailbox at Shatner or phone Flux headquarters at 844-8213. There will be a benefit party in early November open to everyone.

Twitch: Hand submissions into the Twitch box in the Porter's office (Arts 135) or phone for information at 842-3475.

BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO

Final words from Frog Machine U.K. and Goldfish

by Mike Cullen

Drugs. Suicide. Internal conflicts. We associate these things with the end of bands — so sexy, so sensationalised. But we rarely hear about the other reason bands split up: people move on. Ex-Frog Machine and Goldfish members explained that simple fact of professional music after a show last Friday.

"The drummer left," says bassist Alexa Dubreuil of the demise of her band, Frog Machine U.K. (formerly Frog Machine).

Together for only a year and a half, the band had just gotten its act together and built a loyal fan base. Now the three remaining band-mates have only their tour-learned stage moves and new material to show for it.

"I used to tap my foot, chew my gum," describes Dubreuil, following their set at

Le Cabaret. "He [guitarist Adrian Popovich] would never look up."

Despite having polished their moves and their sound, Dubreuil admits that the band's breakup is a release of sorts.

"That name sucks," she says, referring to their former moniker. Apparently, the 'U.K.' addition was an

band was accused by one fan of mocking the original short version ("Is this a joke? Are you making fun of Frog Machine?").

Despite having such a rough time of it, Dubreuil, along with singer/guitarist Mike Zouak

and Adrian Popovich, plan to take their new material into the band's next incarnation.

The opposite is true for Goldfish, whose members split this past summer to pursue other creative directions: nothing will remain of it. After what seemed like an astonishing rise to prominence, the band quietly dissolved this summer with little fanfare.

"You have to be united about where you're going," says former Goldfish drummer Gary Jansz. The obvious implication is that the band was not united and that precipitated the split.

The crossroads were reached much sooner than Goldfish may have expected, explains Jansz. "We got to a

point where we got a lot of good press." That press culminated in, among other things, the *Mirror*'s 1995 Montréal Band of the Year award.

Taken aback by the sudden acclaim, the band could not decide which direction to take — and whether to produce more of the media-friendly material its fans clamored for. In the end, the breakup was on mutually agreement, leaving each member to their own devices.

Jansz has no regrets about the breakup however. "At the heart of it, I'm a musician, so it's very liberating. I get to do what I do best."

Leaving Goldfish behind allowed him to go beyond simple rock with his new band, Ebertin



Point.

This new project doesn't exclude possible future collaborations with his ex-band mates according to Jansz, who still counts them as friends as well musical associates. In that way, the memory and spirit of what was Goldfish may still resurface at some undetermined time.

For the time being, though, fans of Frog Machine as well as Goldfish will have to live with the silence, and the knowledge that good bands never die — they only change.

Frog Machine's full-length CD and a couple of 7"s by Goldfish are still available at finer record shops. Conventional wisdom says grab 'em while you can.

Happy Birthday McGill

Now can we talk?

By M-J Milloy

MONTREAL (CUP) — Just steps away from a new statue of James McGill, erected to commemorate McGill's 175 year history, Québec Education Minister Pauline Marois refused to rule out tuition fee hikes for McGill students in the future.

"The government is exploring all avenues. We have taken no positions, made no decisions, and ruled nothing out," said Marois.

Her comments came after a student demonstration disrupted her speech at the opening ceremony of McGill's 175th anniversary celebrations.

About 60 students and non-academic staff drowned out the emcee with chants, demanding a continuation of the Parti-Québécois' 20-year freeze on tuition fee levels.

"Can we talk about this, negotiate something?" pleaded McGill Chancellor Gretta Chambers, as protesters pushed aside startled onlookers and camped at the foot of the stage.

Soon after Chambers' pleas, the event looked as if it would dissolve into utter anarchy.

Agitated members of the Board of Governors on stage looked uncomfortable as Avi Freedman, the professor in charge of the ceremony, ran from

side to side of the stage, trying to defuse the growing chaos.

At first, he called about 20 of the student volunteers running the celebrations onto the stage to drown out the demonstration by chanting "open house."

When that effort failed he marshaled a nervous looking high-school band into the breach, between the stage and the protesters.

When their brass horns could not drown out the demonstrators' chants, the administration finally allowed Erin Runions, vp external of the Post-Graduate Students' Society, and an organiser of the demonstration, onto the stage to address the crowd.

"We want to tell you that it is unacceptable

to raise tuition," said Runions, to cheers from the demonstrators and some heckles from other onlookers.

Organisers of the protest argued that the administration's continual refusal to allow any dialogue between students and administrators led to this particular demonstration.

"If [Principal Bernard] Shapiro had agreed to an open forum for student concerns last spring, there wouldn't have been a demonstration today," said Chris Carter, president of McGill's undergraduate Stu-

dents' Society.

"That would have been a civilised time to discuss these issues," continued Carter, referring to a remark by Shapiro at the height of the demonstration. The principal had snidely suggested that it was easy for the protesters to be "barbarians but is much more difficult to be civilised."

Especially after his inflammatory remarks at the microphone, Shapiro became the second target of the demonstrators' anger. Part of the motivation for the protest was to denounce Shapiro's repeated and public attempts to convince Marois to allow McGill to raise tuition levels, according to Runions.

Since his installation two years ago as McGill's principal, Shapiro has taken steps to radically alter the University's administration and goals.

He released a controversial report last fall advocating the privatisation of profitable degree programmes, a doubling of tuition levels, and the closure of faculties and programmes which do not break even.

Shapiro argues that a deregulation of tuition fees is necessary to ensure that McGill remains in the top rank of Canadian universities. He says that McGill no longer has the financial ability to continue with its low tuition levels.

But Carter says McGill has no right to complain now, because it did nothing to protest the fed-

eral government's cuts to social spending.

"The administration can't say to us that they have no choice but to raise tuition since they weren't with us, the students, the staff, when we were fighting the Liberal's plans to cut social spending for the last two years," he said.

Shapiro quite openly admits that he has been lobbying Marois and the Québec govern-

tion.

He says there is no proof that a tuition hike would lead to less accessibility to McGill.

"There are no students who cannot come to McGill because of money. If you have the marks, you can come to this university," said Shapiro.

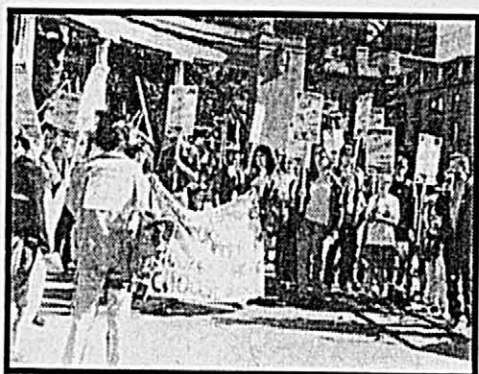
"Shapiro should check out the survey we did last year about how many students had to go to food banks to get through last winter," Runions shot back when told about Shapiro's comments.

So far, tuition fee hikes, inequitable teaching assistant salaries and staff layoffs have been the cost of Shapiro's vision to privatise the university, according to Runions.

Runions is also highly critical of the University's anniversary celebrations.

The three-day affair included a giant encampment of party tents in the centre of the University that housed displays on McGill's historical achievements and ongoing programmes, as well as numerous alumni galas and reunions.

The celebrations took two years to plan and cost over \$1 million.



ment to deregulate tuition levels.

"I would like to see student tuition at McGill rise at least to the national average, about \$3,000," said Shapiro in an interview right after the demonstra-

Brief

Calling All Queers Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgendered (LBGT) Activism and Awareness Conference

Queer and queer positive students, grab your clipboards and your favourite queer pride paraphernalia. This Friday night, Queers from across Canada will be uniting for McGill's first Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgendered Activism and Awareness Conference.

It's a mouthful. In addition to being an opportunity to hear queer activists like John Fisher from EGALÉ (Equal Rights for Gays and Lesbians Every-

where), DiversCité organiser Suzanne Girard, and journalist Richard Burnett speak, the conference is also an opportunity for queer students to share ideas and experiences. Seminars will cover such topics as "Media Issues," and "Grassroots Organising," to "Lesbians and AIDS". A highlight of the weekend will be a spoken word performance by Rima Bannerji and Atif Siddiqi in Sky Club's Cabaret. The performance will be followed by a discussion on queers of colour led by the performers.

— Mariko Tamaki

The conference will take place at McGill's Shatner Building (3480 McTavish) and costs \$30, which covers all meals from Friday to Sunday, excepting Saturday night's dinner. Registration is September 27 from 14h-19h in the Shatner Building lobby.

For more information please contact LBGT at 398-6822, or the coordinators at 284-9504.



Maxwell Cummings Lecture

Professor Edward Said
Columbia University, New York

The Clash of Civilizations, or the Clash of Definitions?

Tuesday, October 1, 1996
6:00 p.m.

Stephen Leacock Building Room 132,
Noel Fieldhouse Auditorium & Room 26

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"sisters"

by simona gheorghiu

Events

Thursday, September 26

- LBGTW Women's Group: 18:30h, Shatner room 423.

Friday, September 27

- Caribbean Student's Society Party: 21h, Shatner 302.
- LBGTW's Coming Out Group: 17:30h, at 3521 University.
- LBGTW's Men's Discussion Group: 19h, 3521 University.
- LBGTW hosts a Canadian University LBGT conference. Keynote speaker John Fischer from EGALÉ. Info: 398-6822

Saturday, September 28

- M.A.C.E.S holds job interview workshops, 10-13h, 3437 Peel, 4th floor. Cost: \$20.00. Info: 398-4974.

Monday, September 30

- Department of Hispanic Studies presents a lecture by Henry Kamen, *Inquisition and Liberty in Early Modern Spain*. 17:45h, Leacock 26.

Tuesday, October 1

- McGill Lectureship Committee presents Professor Edward Said's lecture, *The Clash of Civilizations, or the Clash of Definitions?* 18h, Leacock 132
- Centre Interculturel

Strathearn holds "Stop the War Against Women" event, 19:30h, 3680 Jeanne Mance.

- Le Frigo Vert - Concordia's non-profit, student-run, natural store runs its supermarket tour, 18h, 2130 Mackay. Info: Ame at 279-3758.

Wednesday, October 2

- The Canadian Studies Graduate Student's Association annual general meeting, 17h, 3463 Peel St. All grad students interested in the study of Canada welcome

Ongoing

- Montreal Sri Chinmoy Centre presents workshop, "Meditation and Self-Awareness." Sessions from 10:30-13:00h and 14-17h Saturday, September 28 and Sunday, September 29, 1200 Atwater. For info call 845-1837 or 489-5692.
- Canadian AIDS Memorial Quilt on display Monday, September 30 and Tuesday, October 1, 11:30 - 17h, Leacock room 232. Free. Info: David Wright at 398-2915.
- McGill Classical Music Club meets every Monday, 18:30-20:30h, 555 Sherbrooke c205.
- The Sexual Assault Centre of SSMU offers a confidential listening Help Line at 398-8500, 19-22h seven days a week. Five free support groups also offered. Info: 398-2700.

Note From Below

Here at the McGill *Daily Culture* we are team players.

Drop on by with a cover design, a photo for **Off the Darkroom Floor**, an idea for our new photo essay feature, or, of course, a story idea. Also welcome are letters and Hyde Parks for both the news and culture editions. (Note: You do not have to be able to jump as high as these guys to join the *Daily* team).



DAILY PHOTO BY JOHN DUIMOVICH

daily classifieds

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students & Staff (with valid ID): \$4.60 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$4.05 per day. General Public: \$5.75 per day, or \$4.90 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, prices include applicable GST (7%) or PST (6.5%). Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. **WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER.** The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

HOUSING

3½ quiet location 10 min. from McGill by metro, renovated, wood fl., newly pnt., garden, balconies, furnished with stove, fridge, microwave, TV, bed, desk, shelves, dining table etc. Close to Provisoir, IGA, coin laundry, farmer's market. \$350/m unheated 525-9476.

For rent spacious clean rooms situated corner Durocher/Prince Arthur streets west. Call Rex 845-6406 8am-11:30am or after 8pm for appointment and information.

MOVERS / STORAGE

Moving/Storage. Closed van or truck. Local & long distance. Ott-Tor-Van-NY-Fla-7 days, 24 hours, low rates. Steve 735-8148.

HELP WANTED

Needed immediately skilled students in sales and with a vehicle to pick up materials for upcoming bazaar to help people living with AIDS. Minimum wage gas paid by organization. Please call Caryl Gold 341-0271.

Earn \$100-200/day Master School of Bartending—bartending & table service. Complete placement agency. Leaders in the hospitality industry for 15yrs. McGill rate. 849-2828.

Bilingual part-time salesperson needed for downtown computer store. Good knowledge of IBM PC's and peripherals a must. Call 933-2368.

Roswell Hill, do you wonder about sailing ships, is there scientific proof or are they hoaxes? Are you more concerned with your well being? Would you like to know and understand lies and disinformation like the recent event at Notre Dame de Guadalupe? Are you disturbed by the hopelessness in third world countries? Napoleon Captain of the Bonaventure 923-1818.

Translator, strength Eng. to Fr. Exp in creation of documents. Degree in translation an asset. Project PAIE, must be on social aid. Flex. hrs. Send C.V. to Director, Royal Victoria Home Child Care Agency. 687 Pine Ave. W. Rm. V2,20A, Mt H3A 1A1 843-1561.

Customer service representative part time, bilingual, flexible hours, fast typer. Salary \$6.45 per hour. Fax CV at 933-1939.

Group Leader Needed for Dawson Israel Semester Program. January 8 to May 26, 1997. Qualifications: Experience in working with youth, previous visit to Israel, knowledge of Hebrew. Contact N. Parry, Dawson College 931-8731, local 1473 or 486-2076.

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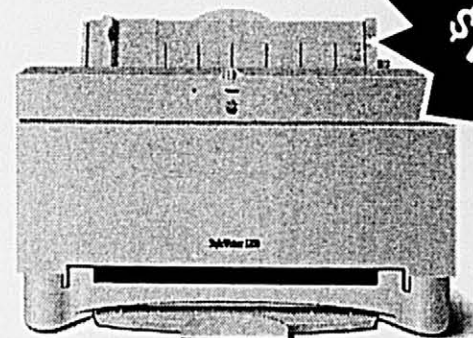
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